

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope distal hood component comprising a protrusion provided at a distal end of the insertion portion of an endoscope to be inserted into a ~~lumen~~ lumen,

wherein the protrusion is protruding in the direction of the observational field of view of the endoscope,

wherein the protrusion has the shape which is not included within the range of the observational field of view,

wherein the protrusion is made from an elastically deformable soft component, ~~and~~

wherein the protrusion is formed in order that when the protrusion is deformed by an external force from the direction of the distal end or the side, the deformed portion is entered into the range of the observational field of view, and

wherein the protrusion which is deformable is continuously formed along a circumference thereof.

2. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 1, wherein the protrusion is integrally provided at the distal end of the insertion portion of the endoscope.

3. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 1, wherein the protrusion is freely detachably provided at the distal end of the insertion portion of the endoscope.

4. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 1, wherein the protrusion is provided to deform by an external force of about 0.29 MPa or less.

5. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 2, wherein the protrusion is provided to deform by an external force of about 0.29 MPa or less.

6. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 3, wherein the protrusion is provided to deform by an external force of about 0.29 MPa or less.

7. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 1, wherein the distal end side of the protrusion is made of a thin-walled portion having a thickness smaller than that of the base end side.

8. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 2, wherein the distal end side of the protrusion is made of a thin-walled portion having a thickness smaller than that of the base end side.

9. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 3, wherein the distal end side of the protrusion is made of a thin-walled portion having a thickness smaller than that of the base end side.

10. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 4, wherein the distal end side of the protrusion is made of a thin-walled portion having a thickness smaller than that of the base end side.

11. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 5, wherein the distal end side of the protrusion is made of a thin-walled portion having a thickness smaller than that of the base end side.

12. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 6, wherein the distal end side of the protrusion is made of a thin-walled portion having a thickness smaller than that of the base end side.

13. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 7, wherein the thin-walled portion is provided in order that the thin-walled portion is deformed by an external force from the direction of the distal end or the side, and is entered into the range of the observational field of view.

14. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 8, wherein the thin-walled portion is provided in order that the thin-walled portion is deformed by an external force from the direction of the distal end or the side, and is entered into the range of the observational field of view.

15. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 9, wherein the thin-walled portion is provided in order that the thin-walled portion is deformed by an external force from the direction of the distal end or the side, and is entered into the range of the observational field of view.

16. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 10, wherein the thin-walled portion is provided in order that the thin-walled portion is deformed by an external force from the direction of the distal end or the side, and is entered into the range of the observational field of view.

17. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 11, wherein the thin-walled portion is provided in order that the thin-walled portion is deformed by an external force from the direction of the distal end or the side, and is entered into the range of the observational field of view.

18. (Original) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 12, wherein the thin-walled portion is provided in order that the thin-walled portion is deformed by an external force from the direction of the distal end or the side, and is entered into the range of the observational field of view.

19. (New) The endoscope distal hood component according to Claim 1, wherein the protrusion which is deformable has a single wall in thickness.